

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19, 21, 25 and 26 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11 and 14-17 have been amended. Claim 24 has been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 25 and 26 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Overview of the Office Action

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 stand objected to because of informalities in claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 15 and 17.

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 have been indicated as being allowable if suitably rewritten to overcome the above-referenced informalities.

Amendments Addressing Informalities

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11 and 14-17 have been amended to address the informalities listed in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search by the Examiner.

In view of these self-explanatory amendments, withdrawal of the objections to claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect and early passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP

By *Thomas Langer*
Thomas Langer
Reg. No. 27,264
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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